



# NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Fort Totten Man Sentenced to 72 Months' Imprisonment** **for Involuntary Manslaughter**

**GRAND FORKS** - United States Attorney Drew Wrigley announces that **Loren Michael Longie** of Fort Totten, North Dakota, was sentenced today before United States District Court Judge Ralph R. Erickson on a charge of involuntary manslaughter.

**Longie**, 27, was found guilty by a 12-person jury on October 14, 2005, of the involuntary manslaughter of Darrett Mudgett during a motor vehicle crash on the Spirit Lake Indian Reservation. United States District Court Judge Ralph R. Erickson presided over the four-day trial.

In the early hours of April 21, 2005, **Longie**, along with three other adults and one child, left a Fort Totten residence where the adults had been drinking alcoholic beverages. They all got into **Longie's** vehicle to drive to another residence in the area. **Longie** was driving the vehicle when it went off the side of the road, hit an approach, and became airborne. The vehicle crashed end on end before rolling and landing on its side. Mudgett was thrown from the vehicle and pronounced dead at the scene. **Longie** fled the scene of the crash and was arrested the following day.

Judge Erickson sentenced **Longie** to 72 months' imprisonment to be followed by three years of supervised release. **Longie** was ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$6,435 and to pay a \$100 special assessment to the Crime Victim's Fund.

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The case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the North Dakota Highway Patrol.

Assistant United States Attorneys Janice M. Morley and Jennifer Klemetsrud Puhl prosecuted the case.

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